Nunavut Housing Needs Survey
Fact Sheet – Arviat

Background:

The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey (NHNS) is a survey of households in 25 communities in Nunavut, conducted from November 2009 to June 2010. The primary objective of the survey was to collect data on the housing needs of Nunavummiut so as to assist the Government of Nunavut in planning and providing housing. The overall response rate was 90% for Arviat.

This fact sheet presents some of the survey results for Arviat. Similar fact sheets are available for the territory as a whole and for each region and each community. All numbers in this fact sheet have been rounded. Percentages were calculated from unrounded numbers and the denominator excludes the non-response categories "refusal", "don't know", and "not stated".

More survey information and results are available on the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics' website which may be accessed at http://www.eia.gov.nu.ca/stats/housing.html or you may wish to contact one of our Information Officers at 867-473-2656 or 867-473-2660. Collect calls are accepted.

Survey highlights for Arviat:

Housing stock and housing tenure in Arviat:

A) Arviat had a total of 530 dwellings, of which 490 were occupied by their usual residents. The remaining 40 dwellings were unoccupied or occupied temporarily by persons who considered their usual home elsewhere.

B) The most common types of dwellings were single detached houses (64%) and row houses with 3 or more units side-by-side (27%).

C) Of the 490 dwellings occupied by usual residents, about 3 dwellings out of 4 were rented while 1 out of 4 was owned.

D) Most of the housing occupied by Arviammiut was classified as public housing, which made up more than one-half of all occupied dwellings. The second most common type of housing was owner-occupied dwellings, representing about 1 dwelling out of 4. The remaining occupied dwellings were staff housing and other types of rented housing.

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State of housing for dwellings occupied by usual residents in Arviat:

E) Of the 490 households, which is the equivalent of all dwellings occupied by usual residents, about 6 out of 10 were satisfied with the condition of their dwelling.

F) About 27% of occupied dwellings (130) required major repairs for items such as defective plumbing or defective electrical wiring, a leaking oil or sewage tank, or a broken hot water boiler. The need for major repairs is based solely on the opinion of the respondent.

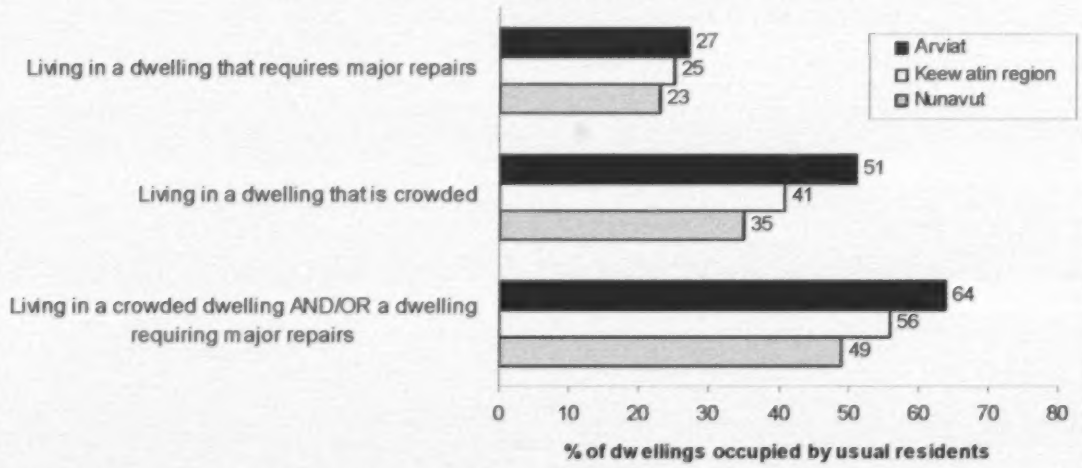
G) Approximately 51% of occupied dwellings (250) were classified as crowded, based on the lack of enough bedrooms. About half of those dwellings (120 out of 250) were classified as crowded because they required one additional bedroom. The other crowded dwellings required two or more additional bedrooms.

H) In about half of the crowded dwellings, respondents indicated that they regularly used the living room for sleeping because there was no other place to sleep.

I) In Arviat, 64% of the occupied dwellings (310) were below housing standards, meaning they were either crowded or in need of major repairs or a combination of both. Housing affordability was not measured in the survey.

J) Public housing had the highest proportion of dwellings below housing standards (74%) compared with other types of housing such as owner-occupied dwellings, staff housing or other rental housing.

Chart 1. Summary of the state of housing for dwellings occupied by usual residents, Arviat, Keewatin region and Nunavut, 2009-2010



Note: The need for major repairs is based on the opinion of the respondent. A dwelling is classified as crowded if there is a lack of a sufficient number of bedrooms.

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Arviat housing needs for dwellings below housing standards:

K) For each person in a household, the survey asked if they would move out if additional housing were available in their community.

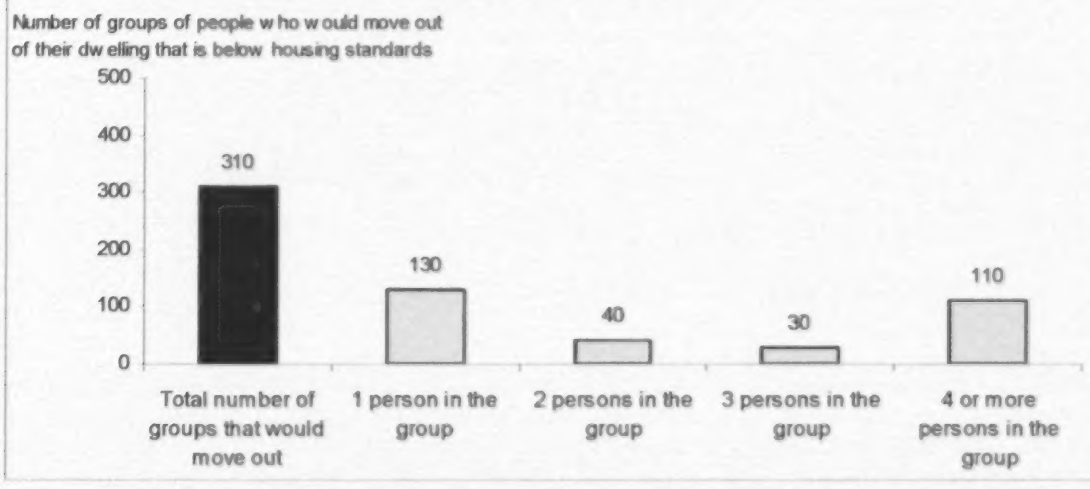
L) In the majority of the occupied dwellings below housing standards (210 out of 310) in Arviat, at least one person or a group of household members would move out if more housing were available.

M) Out of the 1,800 or so persons living in a dwelling below housing standards, about 950 of them or little less than half responded that they would move out if more housing units were available in their community.

N) Of the 950 people who would move out, some of them would move out on their own and others would move out with people living in the same dwelling or elsewhere. This represents a total of 310 groups of people that would move out of their current housing if additional housing were available.

O) This number of groups (310) represents the number of dwellings that would be required to house the groups moving out of dwellings below housing standards. About 41% of these groups wishing to move would be people moving out alone while 59% would be a group of two or more persons moving out together.

Chart 2. Number of dwellings required to house groups moving from dwellings that are below housing standards by group size, Arviat, 2009-2010



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People in immediate need of housing in Arviat:

P) Slightly less than 100 Arviammiut did not have a usual home at the time of the survey and were living temporarily in another person's dwelling. This represents approximately 4% of the population in Arviat.

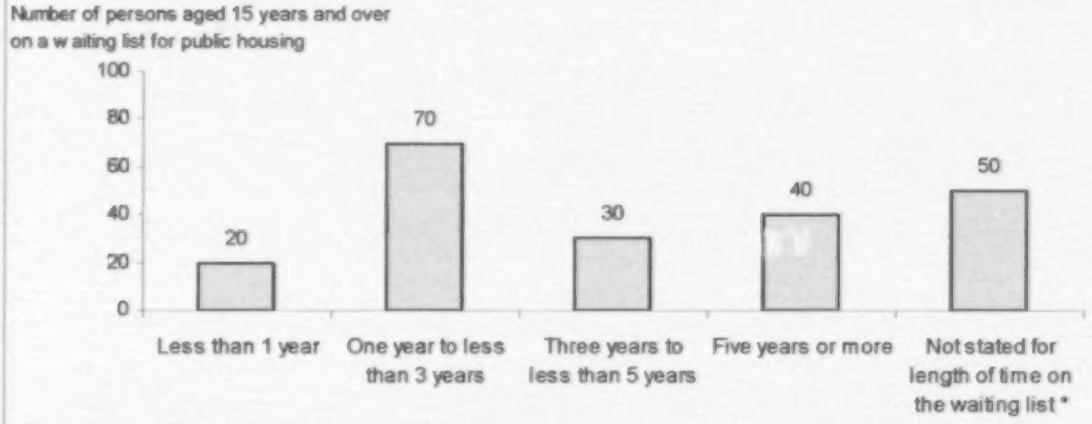
Q) About 2 occupied dwellings out of 10 housed temporary residents without a usual home elsewhere in the 12 months prior to the time of the survey.

People on the waiting list for public housing in Arviat:

R) About 210 Arviammiut aged 15 years and over reported that they were on the waiting list for public housing. This represents slightly less than 1 person out of 5 for those aged 15 and over.

S) For those on the waiting list, about 70 persons aged 15 and over reported being on the waiting list for at least one year but less than three years, while another 40 persons reported being on the waiting list for five years or more.

Chart 3. Number of persons aged 15 and over by length of time on a public housing waiting list, Arviat, 2009-2010



* Note: The data related to the length of time on the waiting list should be used with caution as this question is associated with a relatively large number of non-responses (don't know / refusal / not stated).

Telephone and Internet access in Arviat:

T) About 300 households or 6 out of 10 in Arviat had access to the Internet from within their dwelling.

U) The majority of households, or 71%, had a telephone. Most of these households had a regular land line telephone.

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